Reduction of Army in Siachen by India and Pakistan

573. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has lately been reached between Indian and Pakistani authorities to reduce the army in Siachen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps since taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No agreement has been reached so far between Indian and Pakistani authorities for reducing the army in Siachen.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Violation of ceasefire by Pakistan

574. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Pakistan is taking full advantage of the ceasefire along the LoC (Line of Control) and IB (International Border) and is building new bunkers and raising the height of old ones at as many as 200 places along the LoC to make it easy for Pakistan to target Indian positions and civilian areas if the ceasefire fails to hold;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Construction and improvement of defences is an ongoing process. With the ceasefire in place, construction activity on the Pakistan side has accelerated to some extent. Any significant construction activity by Pakistan close to the Line of Control and International Border is being objected to by the Indian Army and the matter is resolved in the local Flag Meetings and when required, raised during the weekly DGMO level talks. Pakistani activities are being monitored regularly and suitable military measures are being adopted to deny advantage to the adversary.